

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00

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P 061124Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 353

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2094

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR BREWER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SU

SUBJECT: ABORTIVE SUDANESE COUP

REF: KHARTOUM 2090

1. KHARTOUM HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL SEPT. 6 WITH FEW SIGNS OF YESTRDAY'S SHORT-LIVED COUP ATTEMPT. LOCAL PRESS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO COUP NEWS AND EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT MADE YESTERDAY BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT LEADERS. ARABIC PRESS FULL OF GRIZZLY PHOTOS OF INDIVIDUAL CORPES OF SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN DEFENSE OF REGIME. PAPERS ALSO CARRY SEVERAL PHOTOS OF COUP LEADER HASSAN HUSSEIN OSMAN RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT, BELYING EARLIER ASSUMPTION (BASED ON VICE PRESIDENT AHMED'S ANNOUNCEMENT - SEE KHARTOUM 2089) THAT OSMAN HAD BEEN KILLED. HIS ULTIMATE FATE STILL NOT KNOWN, ALTHOUGH WE KNOW BAGHDAD
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MEDIA REPORTED THAT MININFO HALIM TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT

OSMAN HAD BEEN KILLED (FBIS AMMAN 051240Z SEP 75).

2. MAJOR HEADLINES IN "AL SAHAFA" DEVOTED TO TELEPHONE CALLS OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING KHALID.

3. "AL SAHAFA" ALSO HEADLINES NIMEIRI QUOTE: "WHAT HAPPENED WAS KNOWN TO THE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS AND TO ME PERSONALLY." OTHER REMARKS INDICATE THAT REGIME KNEW IN ADVANCE OF COUP PLOT BUT HAD TAKEN NO ACTION BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. (THIS BECOMES MORE PLAUSIBLE NOW THAT WE HAVE SEEN MORE ACCURATE VERSION OF NIMEIRI RADIO ADDRESS (KHARTOUM 2089). NIMEIRI DID NOT SAY HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWED INTO HIS HOUSE BY SOLDIERS BUT SIMPLY THAT THE CONSPIRATORS HAD WAITED FOR HIM TO GO HOME BEFORE BEGINNING THEIR ATTEMPTED COUP.)

4. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN PRESS INCLUDE STATEMENT THAT APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY MILITARY MEN INVOLVED IN ATTEMPT. GOS SAID TO BE LOOKING FOR CIVILIANS BEHIND THE ATTEMPT AS WELL AS FOR PRISONERS WHO WERE RELEASED OR ESCAPED DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF SEPT. 5. "AL SAHAFA" ALSO REPORTS RECEIPT OF MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM THREE MINISTERS CURRENTLY IN LONDON: MINED MANSOUR KHALID, MINPUBLIC WORKS MUSTAFA OSMAN HASSAN AND MINSTATE FOR INFORMATION BONA MALWAL RING.

5. HEADLINE IN "AL AYAM" ANNOUNCES THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT WAS BEHIND THE ABORTIVE COUP. STORY IN SAME PAPER SAYS THAT ABUL GASSIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM HAS TOLD A SSU MEETING THE SAME THING. (NATIONAL FRONT IS TAKEN HERE TO INCLUDE MUSLIM BROTHERS AND BOTH OLD POLITICAL PARTIES, NUP AND UMMA.) IN THIS CONNECTION SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND SSU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AL-RASHID AL-TAHIR REVEALED ON RADIO TODAY THAT INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF COUP MADE BY OSMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY TWO FORMER MINISTERS AND NUP POLITICIANS. HE IDENTIFIED THEM AS ABDEL MAGID ABUL HASSABO, MININFO IN LAST CABINET PRECEEDING 1969 COUP, AND AHMED ZEIN AL-ABDIN, MINHEALTH IN SAME CABINET. AL-TAHIR SAID THAT HASSABO HAD BEEN ARRESTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH PAMPHLETEERING AGAINST SADAT VISIT TO KHARTOUM AND THAT AL-ABDIN HAD BEEN ARRESTED EARLIER FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNSPECIFIED ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES BUT HAD BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED. (THRUST OF AL-TAHIR'S REMARKS CLEARLY WAS TO IDENTIFY COUP ATTEMPT WITH OLD POLITICAL PARTIES.)

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HASSAN HUSSEIN OSMAN WAS KNOWN WHILE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KORDOFAN AS A FANATIC MUSLIM BROTHER.

7. FINALLY, RADIO OMDURMAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT KHATMIYYA
LEADER MOHAMMED OSMAN AL-MIRGHANI (WHO HAD WIDELY PUBLICIZED
MEETING WITH NIMEIRI RECENTLY - KHARTOUM 2034) WENT TO SUDANESE
EMBASSY IN CAIRO AS SOON AS HE LEARNED OF THE COUP ATTEMPT,
THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT HE WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS
SUPPORT OF THE NIMEIRI REGIME.
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Message Attributes

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